

# **Southern Plains Drought Outlook Summary**

**Thursday, September 19, 2013  
Issued: 0900 CDT**

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**National Weather Service  
Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
Fort Worth, TX**

## Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma** Only 5% of state in extreme drought. Down from 95% on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- New Mexico** Heavy rainfall resulted in continued improvements with 6.5% of state in extreme drought as compared to 90% June.
- Texas** Improvements have occurred in the Panhandle and West TX. Additional rainfall is expected across TX in the next week.

## U.S. Drought Monitor

September 17, 2013  
Valid 7 a.m. EDT

### Oklahoma

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	5.52	94.45	49.14	21.09	4.58	1.48
Last Week (09/10/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	50.45	23.13	10.34	1.48
3 Months Ago (06/16/2013 map)	46.86	53.14	42.59	36.76	25.35	8.64
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.89	57.06
Start of Water Year (09/01/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.98	95.33	42.00
One Year Ago (09/17/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.69	94.69	59.66

#### Intensity:

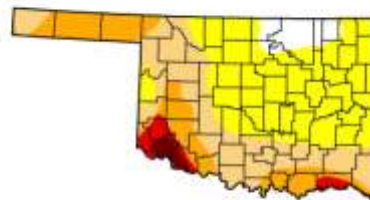


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, September 19, 2013  
National Drought Mitigation Center



**For Southern Plains Drought Monitor go to:**  
<http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home>

## Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- New Mexico:** 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs at less than 15% of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, is at only 6.5% of capacity. A wet September should result in short term improvements.
- Texas:** Statewide reservoir capacity continues to set new modern day lows for this time of year, currently at 58%, which is 10% less than this time last year.
- Rio Grande:** Upstream rains and rains in Mexico have resulted in slight improvements to Lakes Amistad and Falcon.
- Oklahoma:** Lake Altus in southwest Oklahoma at less than 13% of capacity.

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### New Mexico

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	1.54	96.36	74.94	45.75	6.44	0.00
Last Week (09/10/2013 map)	0.37	96.63	96.96	77.61	45.89	8.55
3 Months Ago (06/16/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.49	90.18	44.13
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	98.83	94.05	31.88	0.87
Start of Water Year (09/01/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	62.56	12.25	0.66
One Year Ago (09/17/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	62.40	12.35	0.66

#### Intensity:

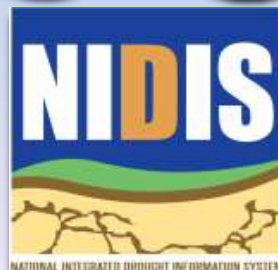
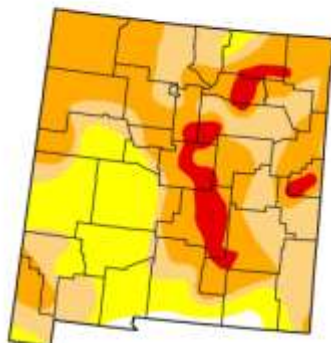


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### Texas

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	5.30	94.70	66.30	64.06	25.08	1.65
Last Week (09/10/2013 map)	4.14	95.86	67.12	65.59	21.79	2.62
3 Months Ago (06/16/2013 map)	4.76	95.24	64.82	58.48	29.43	11.83
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	67.50	65.39	35.03	11.36
Start of Water Year (09/01/2012 map)	6.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	34.91	5.18
One Year Ago (09/17/2012 map)	7.26	92.74	76.50	52.10	23.13	4.80

#### Intensity:

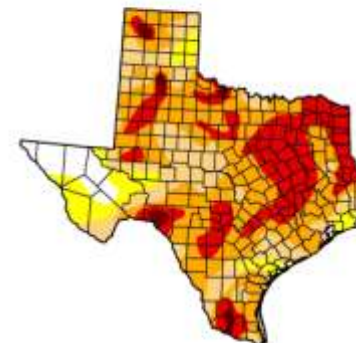


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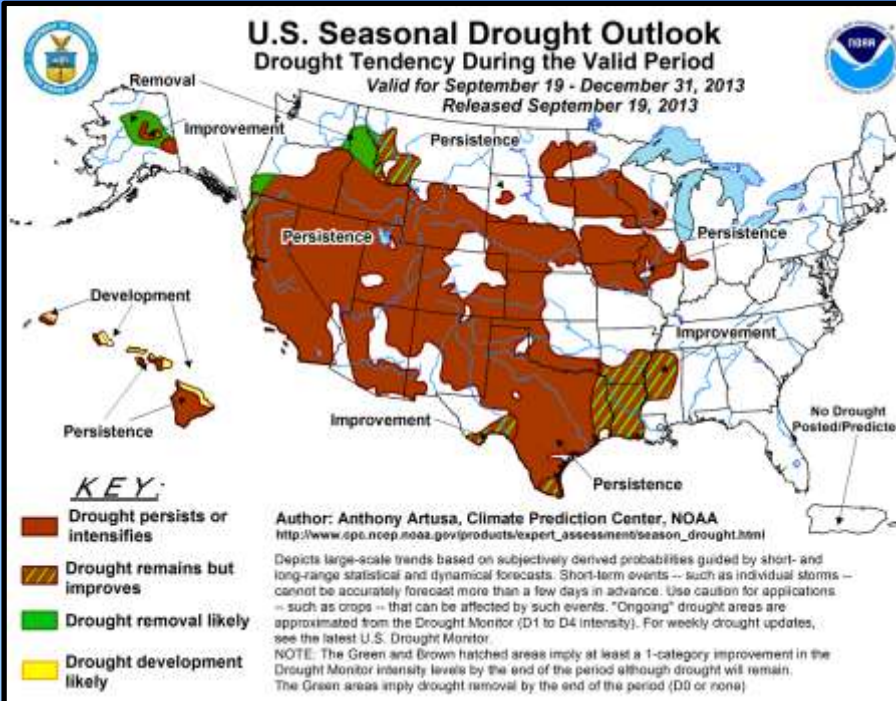
**Website:** [www.srh.noaa.gov](http://www.srh.noaa.gov)

**Twitter:** @NWS\_Southern\_US

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.SRH.gov>

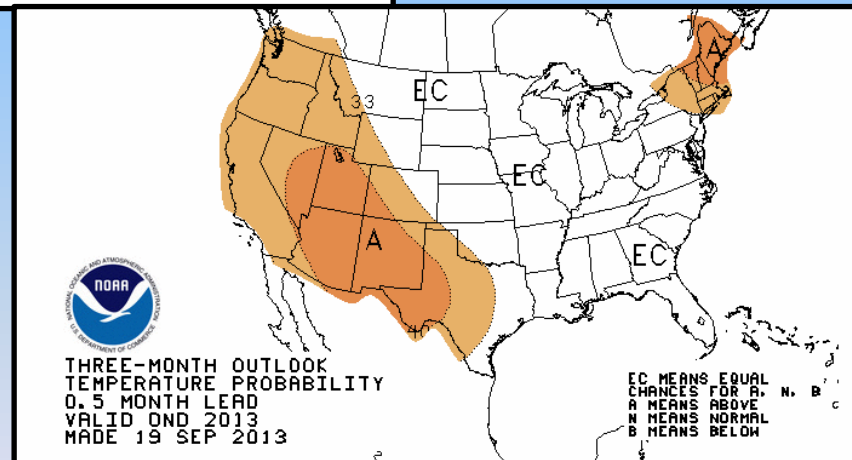
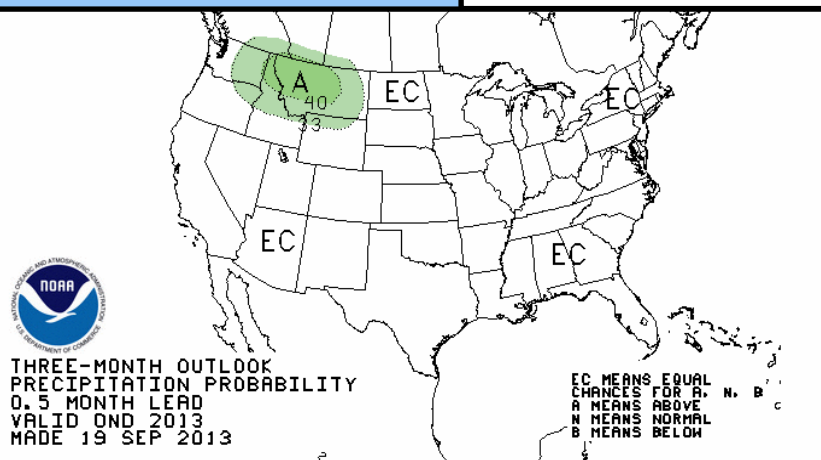
## 3-month Outlook Precipitation

- Equal chances for above, near, or below normal precipitation expected for nearly all of OK, NM, and TX.
- October is the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest month of the year for TX. With summer monsoon ending, amounts in NM drop off markedly starting in October.
- Little change in drought conditions expected region wide.



## 3-month Outlook Temperature

- Increased chances for Above Normal Temperatures for all of NM and far west TX.
- Highest confidence of this is in southwest NM.
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures ... further exacerbating surface reservoir water levels.



## Southern Plains Drought Summary

- Little change in drought conditions expected region wide through the end of the year.
- Drought forecast to persist across current areas. Possible short term improvement in deep south TX due to recent rains.

Website: [www.srh.noaa.gov](http://www.srh.noaa.gov)

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resources also available on the  
**Southern Plains drought.gov web portal**

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